Predicting the Trajectory of Any COVID19 Epidemic From the Best Straight Line

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ABSTRACT

A pipeline involving data acquisition, curation, carefully chosen graphs and mathematical models, allows analysis of COVID-19 outbreaks at 3,546 locations world-wide (all countries plus smaller administrative divisions with data available). Comparison of locations with over 50 deaths shows all outbreaks have a common feature: H(t) defined as $\log_e(X(t)/X(t-1))$ decreases linearly on a log scale, where X(t) is the total number of Cases or Deaths on day, t (we use \ln for \log_e). The downward slopes vary by about a factor of three with time constants (1/slope) of between 1 and 3 weeks; this suggests it may be possible to predict when an outbreak will end. Is it possible to go beyond this and perform early prediction of the outcome in terms of the eventual plateau number of total confirmed cases or deaths?

We test this hypothesis by showing that the trajectory of cases or deaths in any outbreak can be converted into a straight line. Specifically $Y(t) \equiv -\ln(\ln(N/X(t)))$, is a straight line for the correct plateau value N, which is determined by a new method, Best-Line Fitting (BLF). BLF involves a straight-line facilitation extrapolation needed for prediction; it is blindingly fast and amenable to optimization. We find that in some locations that entire trajectory can be predicted early, whereas others take longer to follow this simple functional form. Fortunately, BLF distinguishes predictions that are likely to be correct in that they show a stable plateau of total cases or death (N value). We apply BLF to locations that seem close to a stable predicted N value and then forecast the outcome at some locations that are still growing wildly. Our accompanying web-site will be updated frequently and provide all graphs and data described here.

INTRODUCTION

In December 2019 a coronavirus, known as SARS-CoV-2, was discovered in Wuhan China (Wang, 2020). The virus, perhaps from horseshoe bats (Zhou, 2020), spread between humans during January 2020, leading to the COVID-19 pandemic. Early prediction of the number of cases and deaths in an epidemic or pandemic is of vital importance as it helps policy makers make informed decisions on the best allocation of resources and containment of the pathogen. For this reason, many different groups have attempted to make reliable predictions of Sars-Cov-2 diffusion (Levitt 2020a, Wang 2020, Dimeglio 2020, Wu 2020, Pinotti 2020). These forecasts are based on a variety of mathematical and statistical models, which use different types of data (COVID-19 data, mobility data, demographic data) and take into account the impact of interventions, such as social distancing, proper hand hygiene and the use of masks. Such variables differ from country to country, and moreover, the criteria to detect COVID19 cases and consider COVID19 as the cause of deaths also vary sometimes even for states/provinces in the same country. These factors combine to complicate finding a universal method to fit and predict COVID-19 trajectories.

We began working on COVID-19 in the last week of January 2020 using data released by Sudalai Rajkumar (Rajkumar), Johns Hopkins Coronavirus Resource Center (JHCS) and Chinese internet (JOBTUBE). On January 28th, there were numbers of cases and deaths for 6 days starting on January 22nd. The daily death rate of COVID-19 (ratio of total deaths to total cases on a given day) was ten times higher inside Hubei, the province surrounding Wuhan, than everywhere else in China (non-Hubei). Concerned and encouraged by this data, we started an Excel spreadsheet to follow the daily progression of COVID-19. Each day, we made graphs of four simple measures. Three were obvious: the total number of cases; the total number of deaths, and their ratio, the death rate. The fourth was trivial but less obvious: the ratio of the total cases (or deaths) denoted as X(t) for today divided by that of yesterday. This 'fractional change function' f(t) measures exponential growth of X(t) with f(t) = X(t)/X(t-1).

If the total today is always 10% more than yesterday the value today will be 1.1 times the value yesterday with f(t)=1.1. In fact, on January 29th, the number of deaths today divided by that of yesterday was 1.3. Were such exponential growth of 30% a day to continue, everyone on earth would die within 90 days. Analyzing the data more completely over the next few days, we noticed on February 2nd that the fractional change for deaths in Hubei showed a steady decrease from 30% on January 29th to 18% four days later. If this linear decrease of fractional change in deaths continued

then deaths in Hubei would stop on day 67, when the fractional change became equal 1 can X(t) was the same as X(t-1). We reported this finding widely (Levitt, 2020b), although in retrospect, it was naïve to expect the linear decrease to continue.

Nevertheless, our early interest in the fractional change function remained for two reasons. Firstly, because of the mathematical simplicity of X(t)/X(t-1) as compared to more accepted measures like R_t (Wallinga 2007; Ferguson 2013). Secondly, because, by analyzing the data of a small number of early epidemics (before mid-March 2020), we realized that the factional change function appears to have the same shape for multiple locations: it converges to 1 as fast as a decaying exponential (Levitt, 2020c). Furthermore, because the fractional change function is a ratio, it is not affected by different systematic counts of cases/deaths due to different criteria: two countries that apply different criteria for deciding when a person is infected but have the same day to day growth will have the same fractional change function, provided that the counting method is kept consistent within the country.

Elaborating further from this initial intuition we found a minimal mathematical model that allows us to consistently describe the spreading of the virus in different countries. We also were able to reduce the very complicated task of fitting inconsistent data sets to the fitting of a straight line for which extrapolations and quality controls are trivial. This allowed us to completely automate data fitting, extrapolation and assessment of the quality of fitting, all done simultaneously and at blinding speed (less than an hour of CPU for all the outbreaks in the world).

METHODS

Data Processing:

Data is synced daily to two different sources for world data, US and Italy data. World data and US data including county and states levels is taken from (JHU), available from (Starschema). Italy data at provinces level is taken from (Ita-regioni). (We thank Levitt-group members Dr. João Rodrigues and Dr. Frederic Poitevin for integrating these data sources into a master file).

For some location the data contains inconsistencies, which we call 'data glitches' and these are corrected as we did in our earliest analysis of the epidemic in Hubei, China (Levitt, 2020d). We were well-aware that any alteration of the raw data must be justified and carefully recorded as we do here. Such correction turns out to be important as the curve-fitting of the raw data is insensitive to

random counting errors, allowing us to use the raw data without any smoothing, but is sensitive to systematic errors like these. There were three type of 'data glitches': 'mis-glitches', 'rise-glitches' and 'drop-glitches'. (1) mis-glitches occur when the data on a given day is not updated. Specifically, whenever two consecutive X(t) values (at times t-1 & t) are identical, we alter the value at t to be the average of the values at times t-1 & t+1. (2) rise-glitches occur when new cases or deaths not previously reported are discovered and released on a particular day. This first occurred in China Hubei on February 13th, when 13,000 cases detected clinically were added to the total. These cases did not occur on the day reported but rather over the preceding days, so we corrected for by rescaling the number of confirmed cases on days prior to 13th February by a constant factor greater than 1 (Levitt 2020d). The same correction was applied on a small number of instances when additional deaths or confirmed cases were reported on a specific day as having been unreported on previous days. Again, we added the deaths or confirmed cases to the previous days a fixed fractional increment (the complete list of with both types of correction is provided in the Supplementary Material). (3) drop-glitches occur when the total numbers at a given location are decreased on a particular day. This can never happen normally as totals always increase and is due to the realization that numbers reported previously include misidentified cases or deaths. This glitch is less common than the other two. It is corrected in the same way as the *rise-glitch* except that the factor multiplying total values on all previous days is less than 1.

Mathematical background

We consider X(t), the discrete temporal series of cases (or deaths) in a given country, region or province. In the most general scenario, we assume that X(t) obeys the following ordinary differential equation (ODE):

$$\frac{dX(t)}{dt} = X'(t) = s(t)X(t) \tag{1}$$

In the discretized form the first derivative of X(t) is X'(t) = X(t-1) - X(t), which is the number of new cases on day t. Equation (1) simply states that the number of new cases on a certain day is proportional to the number of cases on the previous day.

The coefficient of proportionality s(t) is not constant. It changes with time so as to take into account the dynamics of virus spreading, which may be affected by social distancing or the structure of social network interactions.

We are interested in a solution of Equation 1 that reaches a plateau value of N for a large t (often called a growth function). A general form for many different kinds of growth functions can be written as follows (Koya 2013)

$$X(t) = N \left[1 - Be^{-k\left(\frac{t-\mu}{\delta}\right)^{\nu}} \right]^{m}$$
 (2)

Equation 2 describes a rich family of curves which comprises Richards functions (Richards 1959), generalized logistic functions, Weibull functions (Frechet 1927) etc. While the overall shape of these curves depends on the various parameters, the asymptotic behavior has the same analytical form for all the curves in the family. It is this behavior that allows us to introduce an important simplification that reduces the fitting of Equation 2 to fitting a straight line. It is easy to show that the following relationship holds in the limit of large *t*:

$$Y(t) = -\ln(\ln(N/X(t))) = -\ln(\ln(N) - \ln(X(t))) = t/U + \text{const}$$
 (3)

Equation (3) is true asymptotically for every function in the Koya Goshu family, and exactly true for the Gompertz function, G(t), (Gompertz 1825). This function has been also used by other groups to fit data of COVID-19 trajectories (Castorina 2020, Catala 2020) and is shown in **Fig 1** and **Fig. S1**):

$$G(t) = Ne^{-e^{-(t-T)/U}}$$

$$\tag{4}$$

We also consider another function, which is the logarithm of the fractional change function f(t) defined above:

$$H(t) \equiv \ln(f(t)) = \ln(X(t)/X(t-1))$$
 (5)

For a Gompertz distribution H(t) is a decaying exponential function with the same time constant U, associated with Y(t):

$$H(t) = e^{-\frac{t-T}{U}} + const -. ag{6}$$

A similar relationship is valid asymptotically for other growing functions with the same time constant so analysis of the behavior of H(t), provides a second method to derive the time constant U.

Data fitting and validation

The simple linear relationship in Equation 3 provides a remarkable tool allowing us to fit the trajectory of virus spreading and predict the end points (N) in different locations. Given a single data series X(t), the best estimate for In(N) is determined as the value that maximizes the correlation coefficient of Y(t) and t (Figure 1). The calculation of the correlation coefficient is very fast and can be completely automated for a large number of data, and implicitly it also provides a measure of the validity of the assumptions that lead to Equation 4.

This calculation can be updated day by day, and eventually, the extrapolation for ln(N) will converge to the correct number. As we will show in the results section, in many cases the end point can be predicted accurately at a very early stage.

The pseudo-code for data fitting is the following:

```
Read in csv date, Total Cases, Total Deaths for all the world
location
Correct errors, in the date
Main loop for each location
for line_end to End {
    for line_start 10 to line_end-10{
        step lnN from lnN1 to lnN2 by dlN{
            x=day; y = ln(N)-ln(X(t))
            CC = correlation_coef(x,y)
            Find maximum CC
        } if best CC > threshold
            Keep line Y coordinates and the lnN values
      }
}
```

For each line_end, collect the predicted *N* values and histogram them to find the most common value that is then taken as the prediction for that particular line-end value. We are well aware that this method can be improved in many ways some of which we are currently exploring.

Data Smoothing

All data is smoothed using the LOWESS method (locally weighted scatter-plot smoothing) developed by W. S. Cleveland at Bell Labs in 1988 (Cleveland 1988). We use the original FORTRAN code written in Ratfor (Ratfor 1976) (https://www.netlib.org/go/lowess) and converted to Mortran (Mortran 1975). The parameter *F* (the fraction of points used to compute each fitted value) is set to 0.05, 0.07, 0.1, 0.12 and 0.14 for SMO1 to SMO5, respectively. In addition, the smoothed output Y-

axis values for SMO4 and SMO5 are smoothed a second time using F=0.1. Smoothing is only applied to the total counts of cases and deaths. Well-aware of the distortions that smoothing can cause, we made sure that the smoothing did not introduce false features at the start or end of the time series. We also made sure that the smoothing did not move the location of the peaks as shown in **Fig. S3.** We also test the root-mean-square value of the change in total values caused by the five different levels of smoothing. When we do this for locations with more than 60 deaths and for locations with more than 1000 cases we find that the % RMS error average values are between 0.4% and 1.2% for F ranging from 0.05 to 0.14.

One problem when using smoothed data to test prediction, is that smoothing uses future data points that would not have been available on the day the prediction would have been made. We allow for this in estimating when new cases and deaths peak by taking the effective peak date for completed situations as half way between the actual peak date found in the smoothed data and the date at which the level has dropped past the peak to half peak height. We also generally avoid using smoothed data.

RESULTS

What To Expect From Simple Mathematical Functions

The most important result of this study is that the Gompertz function can be transformed into a straight line provided one knows the final plateau value of total counts of either cases or deaths, denoted here as N. This is shown in **Fig. 1** and provides the basic method we use to fit the observed data. Namely, vary the value of N to make the transformed Gompertz function Y(t) into a straight line and then derive parameters from the fit. Although this result is asymptotically true for a broad class of growth functions, we find that the simple three parameter Gompertz growth function fits the trajectory of actual COVID-19 outbreaks very well (Fig. 2). Specifically, the logarithm of the slope of $\ln(X(t))$ (called H(t)) decreases linearly with time meaning that the exponential growth rate (the slope of $\ln(X(t))$) is never constant so that growth is never exponential. This linear decrease of H(t) is not true for all growth functions: specifically, the sigmoid function starts with pure exponential growth (**Fig. 2**, **c-d**). We find this linear decrease of $\ln H(t)$ is in fact a universal property of all outbreaks (Fig. 3) justifying the broad use of the Gompertz function here.

Classification of World COVID-19 Outbreaks

Table 1 lists those countries (89 in all) or regions (Italy, US & Canada, 147 in all) with more than 50 deaths or 1000 cases. The outbreaks have been classified by our completeness code that is based on the peaking of the number of new daily cases or new daily deaths. (See **Table 1** for explanation for explanation of the completeness code).

Fitting With a Straight Line

Fig 4 (a) shows the function Y(t) for deaths in the many different locations (countries or regions of countries) which have reached a plateau, and for which the prediction of the final N is stable. It is evident that for all these locations the data generally follows a linear relationship thereby justifying *a posteriori* our working hypothesis. This observation is confirmed by the fact that the correlation coefficient with time of Y(t) is close to 1 for the vast majority of the locations we examined. We also note that the time constants U (i.e. the inverse slope of the lines or the time-constant of decay) are very similar to each other, indicating the existence of universal properties in virus diffusion that are largely independent of the country.

When considering confirmed cases (**Fig. 4**), we observe more diverse behavior in the time course of Y(t). While for some countries the linear relationship still holds (**Fig 4 (b)**), in other countries we notice deviation from linearity (**Fig. 4 (c)**), which could indicate the existence of multiple outbreaks, or could reflect a change in the method of counting cases.

By fitting Y(t) to a single straight line, we can average multiple outbreaks into a single major outbreak which will follow a Gompertz distribution, where the parameters U and T are the slope and the x-axis intercept at Y(t)=0, of Y(t). This approach allows us to obtain a uniform description for every time series X(t) of cases and deaths in different parts of the world, but with loss of details for locations that do not follow a simple linear relationship.

While *a posteriori* fits describe the raw data well, extrapolations of the final plateau before a given day are still subject to large fluctuations, due to the (double) exponential nature of Gompertz law. In other words, when X(t) is small compared to N, the fitting line varies approximately like ln(ln(N)); even large variation of N barely affects the quality of the fit. Vice versa, when X(t) approaches N, Y(t) becomes more and more sensitive to the correctness of the predicted value of N (**Fig. S2**) The consensus predicted value of N converges to a plateau value with time, and then it is followed by real data with some delay. This allows us to discriminate between locations in which

confirmed cases (or deaths) have reached or are near to reach the plateau, and locations for which it is still impossible to predict the plateau.

A closer Look at Specific Locations

While COVID-19 trajectories share many properties, each outbreak has its own features, which affect our ability to forecast the outcome in terms of the plateau value N for both cases and deaths. These features are best appreciated using two types of graphs, the Four-Panel graph and the Best Line Prediction graph described carefully in Fig. 5, which shows these two graphs for Germany a large but well-behaved outbreak. The top panel of Fig. 5(a) shows that for smoothed data there are single peaks of new cases and new deaths, with the new deaths peaking 11 days after the new cases. This is almost exactly what we observed for the smaller and much earlier outbreak in China, non-Hubei, where deaths were most likely to occur 10 days after a case was confirmed (Levitt, 2020f); this suggests that this interval may be connected to the natural progression of the disease in wellmanaged scenarios. The same delay between cases and deaths is also seen (as it should be) in the second panel. The third panel shows the characteristic curvature recognized since our 14-Mar-20 analysis (Levitt 2020b). Together with the forth panel, it also reveals a small initial outbreak that started on 24-Jan-20, was contained and then followed by a much larger outbreak that started two weeks later and became clearly seen after another two weeks. The Best Line Prediction (BLP) graphs for Germany show in Fig. 5 (b) that from 1-Apr-20, the plateau value of total cases would have been well-predicted. For deaths, Fig. 5 (c) shows the eventual plateau value could have been predicted accurately on 10-Apr-20. The blue dots on these two graphs show that the predicted plateau values vary wildly and a prediction can only be made because many straight-line fits give a similar consensus N value.

In **Fig. 6** we show four other locations which have reached a plateau and for which the extrapolation has not changed significantly in the last few weeks. Although none of these locations are as clean as Germany (**Fig. 5**), one see that early predictions are unstable but converge to more realistic figures with time. **Fig. 6(a)** shows New York City to be well-behaved in terms the smoothed peaks of new cases and new deaths although deaths and cases seem to occur at the same time. This suggests a situation less under control than either China, non-Hubei or Germany. Nevertheless, the BLP graph shows that the final plateau value of N for deaths in New York City could have been predicted correctly on 10-Apr-20. The decay of H(t) shown in the bottom panel of the four-panel

graph is very clean suggesting a single outbreak. **Fig. 6(b)** shows Sweden to have very badly formed peaks of new cases and new deaths and deaths seem to occur before cases, an impossibility likely due to decreased counting of cases as the epidemic proceeds. The BLP graph predicts a plateau value that is not constant although it does look as if total deaths will plateau at about 6,000. **Fig. 6(c)** shows Russia to also have a very extended peaks of new cases and deaths. The number of new cases peaked 7 weeks ago but new deaths remain high. Nevertheless, the BLP graph shows that the predicted plateau value of *N* for deaths is increasing more and more slowly and may well converge to a value of about 16,000, almost double the current number of deaths. **Fig. 6(c)** shows Mexico deaths to be increasing even more rapidly than Russia and at present it is impossible to predict the plateau.

In **Table 2**, we compare the predictive power on the Best Line Prediction (BLP) with that of the Peak Detection Method (PDM). Checking all the converged locations where the current value is expected to close to the expected plateau value of *N* shows that the BLP is significantly better than the PDM. Both methods seem to be able to make their predictions at about the same time (on average, the PDM predicts two days earlier than the BLP based on our assumed value for the peak confirmation date.

In **Table 3** we look at the most active locations to identify cases where prediction of outcome could have significant impact. For this we use two criteria: First, that the forecast be reliable in that the plateau is stable in terms of its slope, its percent standard deviation and at least seven days at this plateau value. Second, that the forecast plateau is a significant increase over the current level.

At the moment of writing this manuscript, many countries or regions are still in the fast growing phase, and it is still impossible to predict the outcome of the epidemic in them (see **Table 3**). For others we can make predictions as shown in **Fig. 7**. Panels (a) & (b) show clearly that the BLP graph for Peru predicts a clear plateau for cases (N=478,000), but the predicted plateau for deaths is still rising rapidly. The plateau value for cases is almost double the current level of 257,000 making this a very meaningful forecast. Panel (c) shows that for Brazil the BLP predicts a stable plateau of 98,000, another very meaningful forecast, again almost double the current level of 47,000. Panel (d) shows that cases in Belarus are predicted to plateau at 82,000, although there is a less clear leveling. Panel (e) shows a split prediction for cases in the United Arab Emirates where there are two plateaus, at 49,000 and about 60,000, respectively; such splitting is very rare. Panel (f) shows that deaths in Kuwait are perhaps going to plateau at 400. Panels (a) to (c) are important forecasts with a

meaningful impact, whereas those in panel (d) to (f) show the diversity of behavior making automatic forecasting a challenging problem.

Open Availability of all Data

All graphs and tables are available online using apps written by Dr. Scaiewicz. The app at http://levitt1.herokuapp.com/ shows the classification for different countries and updated numbers and graphs. The app at http://levitt.herokuapp.com/ shows the predictions in the Best Line graphs.

Availability of the Computer Codes

We would like to make the computer codes we use available to all but these are currently written in a variety of languages that few would want to use. While Dr. Scaiewicz uses clean self-documenting Jupyter Python notebook code, Dr. Levitt still develops in a FORTRAN dialect call Mortran (Mortran 1975) that he has used since 1980. The Mortran preprocessor produces Fortran that is then converted to C-code using f2c. This code is at least a hundred-fold faster than Python code. His other favorite language is more modern, but involves the use of the now deprecated language Perl and Unix shell scripts.

Nevertheless, the methods proposed here are simple; they are easily and quickly implemented by a skilled programmer. Should there be interest, we would be happy to help others develop the code and test them against ours. We also realize that there is ample room for code optimization. Some of the things that we have considered are pre-calculating sums of terms to convert computation of the correlation coefficient from a sum over *N* terms to the difference of two sums. Another way to speed the code would be to use hierarchical step sizes in a binary search to find the value of ln*N* that gives the best straight line.

Our study involving as it did a small group working in different time zones and under extreme time pressure revealed that scientific computation nowadays faces a Babel of computer languages. In some ways this is good as we generally re-coded things rather than struggle with the favorite language of others. Still, we worry about the future of science when so many different tools are used. In this work we used Python for data wrangling and some plotting, Perl and Unix shell tools for data manipulation, Mortran (effectively C++) for the main calculations, xmgrace and gnuplot for other plotting, Excel (and Openoffice) for playing with data. And this diversity is for a group of three!

DISCUSSION

Non-Exponential Growth

It is evident from our data analysis that the growth of a COVID19 epidemic does not follow an exponential growth law even in the very first days, but instead its growth is slowing down exponentially with time. While all growth functions decelerate exponentially when approaching the plateau, the Gompertz function is unique in that it is decelerating from the first day, and thus can fit the first part of the COVID-19 outbreak. Moreover, its relatively simple functional form, allowed us to produce an efficient computer code to fit data in all different locations in a consistent way.

As would be expected, we find several examples in which this simple law is not followed, especially when looking at confirmed cases (deaths appear to follow the Gompertz Function more consistently). For some of these countries (e.g. Iran) it is evident that a second outbreak occurred well separated in time from the first. In other countries, (e.g. South Korea) we observe a change in the dynamics of the virus spread, which could be related to the adopted containment strategy or a difference in the level of testing. Even though such unusual dynamics cannot be predicted from the beginning, our fitting method is able to identify abrupt changes and will identify the slowest characteristic time and will, therefore, be able to produce a prediction for the new plateau.

We believe that the analysis in our study shows conclusively that COVID-19 epidemics grow according to the Gompertz Function and not the Sigmoid Function (Fig. 2). The main difference between these functional forms is that the Sigmoid Function starts off growing exponentially (it has a constant exponential growth factor) and then slows down (blue line in Fig. 2(c)). The Gompertz Function is never exponential but rather has a growth rate that decreases exponentially from the very first confirmed case. This does not make sense as when there are very few cases, it should be easy for each infectious individual to find people to infect, which would lead to exponential growth at the early stages of the outbreak. The Gompertz Function normally applies to conditions when the growth is constrained by some global resource. For example, bacteria growing with a limited food supply or a fire in an enclosure where oxygen is limited.

What is limited for coronavirus? First clues came from the large number of invisible cases indicated by the early serological studies by our Stanford colleagues (Bendavid 2020). More recently, a paper in Science (Silverman 2020) showed that millions of people were infected in the USA before

there were known cases. The existence of invisible cases of individuals who are mildly symptomatic and, therefore, not counted as confirmed cases may explain the non-exponential behavior of COVID-19: the known cases cannot easily find people to infect as the hidden invisible cases have already infected them. We realize that other factors may limit growth. For example, the structure of the human interaction network can lead to sub-exponential growth (Moreno 2002). Still, we believe that as SARS-CoV-2 is so infectious, it does not have a problem finding people to infect early on due to the local network structure.

Initial sub-exponential growth is not a unique feature of COVID-19, but has been observed in previous viral outbreaks and needs to be taken into account to produce accurate predictions (Chowell 2016). Our method provides a quick way to analyze early epidemic data and identify and also quantify sub-exponential growth in terms of the time constant *U*.

Clean and Curate Data Carefully

An essential step for our study has been to clean and curate the data made available from so many different countries. Had we not filled in missing value or spread large changes back in time, the sensitive methods we use would fail. Of course, we need to document every step we take so as not to manipulate data in some arbitrary way. In taking this approach we were aided by the fact that we started the project very early on when there were just 24 data points: six days of cases and deaths in two regions of China (Levitt 2020c).

Another consequence of being so intimately connected with the data is that we had to collect data manually until the various repositories became established. We are now quite certain that the quality of data is more or less the same from all sources. The question of data reliability is often raised and we believe that the data has to obey so many rules of self-consistency that cheating would be almost impossible. For example, in Fig. 2, we see that the raw data from China, non- Hubei. which was available in late January is essentially indistinguishable from the data released for New Zealand two months later.

Sanity Tests To Prove We Do Not Inadvertently Cheat

In a study like this involving a huge body of data, computer programs written quickly and the intense pressure to get results out while they can still be useful, one needs to be very self-critical at every stage looking for computer bugs that could explain any good results that one finds. Specifically, we are trying to test our forecasting method by going back in time and trying to predict something that was not known then but is know now. Such a process, often called 'postdiction' in contrast to 'prediction', is extremely dangerous. We guard against it by running calculations with data sets that have been specially prepared to eliminate all data after a certain previous date. This is tricky in that one cannot use smoothed data as smoothing looks into the future to smooth the present. In this work we made a series of data sets going back into the past and showed that the results from a past date would have been obtained with a data set that did not include data after that date.

Work in progress

We have been studying COVID for five months and worked on all aspects of the analysis. Some of the related projects that we are working on include:

- (a) Predict the future time-course of the epidemic and not just the plateau value *N*. This will involve better understanding of the two other parameters of the best line fit, *U* & *T*.
- (b) In what ways are the detailed trajectories from various locations different? What affects the trajectory in terms of *N* and *U*: population size, population age/health, physical size of location, social distancing or lockdown measures?
- (c) What is the burnout saturation value of *N*? What is the population fatality ratio if the infection runs its course?

CONCLUSIONS

This manuscript is being submitted as a preprint, which is something that we have never done before. We do this for two reasons. One is to make our discoveries available to all at a stage where they will still be useful. Another is to solicit broad criticism and comments that are essential to the scientific process.

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ONLINE RESOURCES USED OR CITED IN THE TEXT

(Raikumar) https://www.kaggle.com/allen-institute-for-ai/CORD-19-research-challenge

(JHCS) https://gisanddata.maps.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/bda7594740fd40299423467b48e9ecf6

(JOBTUBE) https://jobtube.cn/wv/?from=groupmessage&isappinstalled=0

(JHU) https://s3-us-west-1.amazonaws.com/starschema.covid/JHU COVID-19.csv

(Starschema) https://starschema.com/covid-19-data-set

(Ita-regioni) https://raw.githubusercontent.com/pcm-dpc/COVID-19/master/dati-regioni/dpc-covid19-ita-regioni.csv

(Levitt-Twitter) https://twitter.com/MLevitt_NP2013/status/1256511516863586304?s=20

LEGENDS FOR MAIN TABLE & FIGURES

Table 1: Showing the classification scheme we use for all worldwide outbreaks. The Classification Code consist of four symbols, two for Cases and two for Deaths that are initially set to '='. Position 1 is 'c' if New Cases per Day have reached a maximum and are dropping; position 2 is set to 'C" if New cases per Day have dropped to below half the maximum values; positions 3 & 4 are set to 'd' and 'D' when new deaths per day have reached a maximum or have dropped to half their maximum value. The determination of peaking is made using heavily smoothed data (SMO5) (see text).

Table 2: Comparing Best Line Prediction (BLP) and Peak Detection Method (PDM) for Prediction of Plateau *N* Value. The plateau *N* value predicted by the Best Line method is significantly more accurate than that predicted by the Peak Detection method. This can be measured by the Percent Error of the Prediction defined as 100*(Predicted_Plateau_Value - Value_Now)/(Value_Now). For the BLP method this number averages 11% for cases prediction and 9.5% for deaths prediction, whereas the corresponding values for the PDM are more than double at 25.3% and 23.7%, respectively. Another way to measure the advantage of BLP over PDM is to count for different locations how often BLP does better than PDM. Here BLP is better than PDM in 74% of the locations for cases and in 73% of the locations for deaths.

Table 3. Forecasts of Plateau *N* Ordered by Size and Certainty (green shading more certain but may involve small increases to plateau so less important). The locations here are not converged (their classification code is not 'cCdD'). Rather than look at the individual Best Line graphs manually, we do line fitting to the predicted plateau *N* working back from today. Key parameters are the slope of the line through the plateau values, which should **be** small, the Percentage Standard Deviation of the Plateau value (%SD) and the number of days with a plateau prediction within 20% of the predicted value.

Figure 1. (a) Basic properties of the Gompertz functions and its logarithms. The Gompertz function is an exponential of an exponential written as $G(t) = Ne^{-e^{-(t-T)/U}}$ or $G(t) = N\exp(-\exp(-(t-T)/U))$, and defined by three parameters N, T & U, each with clear physical meaning. Parameter N is the

asymptotic number, the maximum plateau value that G(t) reaches after a long time, t. Parameter T, is the point of inflection, which is the time in days at which the second-derivative of G(t) is zero and its first derivative is a maximum. It is a natural mid-point of the function where the value of G(T)=N/e=0.37N. The Parameter U, is the most important as it changes the shape of the curve; it is a time-constant measured in days.

Given the double exponential nature of G(t), one might expect to use a double logarithm to simplify it. The function G(t) itself has the expected S-shape of saturating growth function. Taking the logarithm once gives $\ln(G(t)) = \ln(N) - \exp(-(t-T)/U)$, where \ln is the natural logarithm or \log_e ; it is shown in dashed line increasing very rapidly at first but curving steadily to become horizontal at saturation. Rearranging as $\ln(N) - \ln(G(t)) = \exp(-(t-T)/U)$ and taking the logarithm a second time gives $Y(t) = -\ln[\ln(N) - \ln(G(t))] = -\ln[\ln(N/G(t))] = (t-T)/U$. This function is shown in the dotted line to be a simple straight line. This is hugely significant as extrapolation of a straight-line is trivial: just keep going straight. As we show in the text, the function Y(t) is always a straight line for the Gompertz function. More generally, Y(t), tends to a straight line for a very general class of saturating functions

(b) Illustrating how the linearity of the $Y(t)=-\ln(\ln(N/G(t)))$ depends on the value of N. The linearity shown in (a) has an apparent weakness, namely the line is only straight when the value of N is the correct saturation value and this value will be unknown until the epidemic is over. This weakness is in fact a strength. One can try different values of N and find the one that gives a straight line. In fact, "straighten the line" is much more relevant than the saying "flatten the curve" popularly applied to COVID19.

Figure 2. Showing that the data from two outbreaks far apart in both space and time are almost indistinguishable. The raw data shows as colored circled of two well-controlled outbreaks in China, non-Hubei (all China except for Hubei Province) shown panels (a) & (c) and in New Zealand panels (b) & (d) are essentially identical. The fits for the data (solid lines) as also very similar except for the maximum plateau value of confirmed cases N=13,219 & 1,500, respectively) and the mid-point date in number of days from 23 January 2020, T=32.13 & 90.50. The U parameter is also very similar at U=5.87 & 5.88 days, respectively. Use of the Sigmoid Function in panels (c) & (d) give a fit that is less good that that obtained with the Gompertz Function in panels (a) & (b). This is shown by higher fit residuals (10.158 vs. 7.989 and 0.037 vs 0.035). More importantly, when compared to the

Gompertz function, the Sigmoid function is less able to capture the behavior at the start of the outbreak. Following our four-panel graphs, we plot the Total Number of Cases (black line for X(t), on left-hand y-axis, which is a log-scale), the number of New Cases (red line for X(t)-X(t-1), right hand y-axis, which is a linear scale), and Gradient of log Total Cases (blue line for H(t) = ln(X(t)) - ln(X(t-1)) = ln(X(t)/X(t-1)) on the left-hand y-axis, log scale). Note that for both the real data and the Gompertz function, $\ln[\ln[(X(t)/X(t-1))]]$ is a linear function of time, t.

Figure 3. Showing the trajectory of $\ln[H(t)]$ or $\ln[\ln[X(t)/X(t-I)]]$ for all selected locations with more than 50 deaths. From **Fig. 2**, $\ln[H(t)]$ is expected to decrease linearly for the Gompertz function. As $H(t) = \ln[X(t)] - \ln[X(t-I)]$ is the difference of two numbers, it is subject to a high level of noise. For this reason, we smooth the X(t) using SMO5 LOWESS smoothing. Panel (a) shows the trajectories of $\ln[H(t)]$ for cases. Panel (b) shows $\ln[H(t)]$ for deaths. As there are often relatively low numbers of deaths, the trajectories for deaths are still noisy even after smoothing (NB. The noise in some highlighted locations is unexpectedly high and warrants further investigation).

Figure 4. Showing the trajectory of Y(t) or -ln(ln(N/X(t)) = -ln(ln(N)-ln(X(t))) for all selected locations with more than 50 deaths. From **Fig. 1**, Y(t) is expected to decrease linearly for the Gompertz function and, for more general growth functions in the limit of large t (see **Methods**). In panel (a) we show the raw data for Y(t) for deaths in a selection of more than 130 locations (thin gray lines), and emphasize 5 representative ones with a thicker line. For all such selected locations, Y(t) is well approximated by straight lines with a very similar slope. Panels (b) shows Y(t) for confirmed cases in 119 locations. In panel B we emphasize locations for which the function Y(t) is again well approximated by a straight line, while in Panel (c) we show some locations for which this is not true anymore. This is expected if multiple outbreak of comparable intensity happens in a country, or if there is change in the dynamics of infections or the way cases are counted.

Figure 5. Showing for Germany the Four-Panel graph (left) and Best Line Prediction (BLP) graphs right. In the Four-Panel graph, which has been carefully refined since Feb. 2020 to show the most relevant data in an epidemic, the top panel is New Cases per Day (red, left y-axis) and New Deaths

per Day (black, right y-axis) both normalized to the same height. The second panel is Total Cases and Deaths shown in their respective color and y-axis and also normalized. The third panel is these same totals plotted on a \log_{10} scale (no need for normalization). The fourth panel is $\ln[(X(t)/X(t-1))]$ plotted on a \log_{10} scale (log of the fractional change used in our first analysis, Levitt 2020c). Here we consistently use \log_{10} or \ln for calculations as growth functions are defined in terms of the exponential, e; we use \log_{10} to define logarithm y-axes as powers of ten are more familiar to us humans than are powers of e.

In the BLP graph, Dates are plotted along the x-axis and Total Number of either Cases or Death along the y-axis. The actual trajectory of total data counts is plotted as heavy black circles and increases monotonically with time. The horizontal red dashed line marks the maximum total count number on the latest day included (date specified in the title). The blue dots are the candidate predicted N plateau values (the predicted final completion total count) shown at the Date value where they were made. Specifically, only data up to including this date can be used to find the $\ln(N)$ value that gives the best line. The brown squares enclose the actual predicted N value that is found by most of the predictions at that date (most overlapping blue dots are in the boxes).

Figure 6. Showing four locations, which behave differently because they are at different stages of their outbreak. (a) Deaths in New York City, which was the hardest hit location with more deaths per population than anywhere else. The smoothed data in the lower part of the Four-Panel graph shows clean peaks for Cases and Deaths and a linear descent H(t) on the log scale. The Best Line Prediction in the upper part shows that the plateau number of deaths was indicated as early as 4-Apr-20 and confirmed a week later. (b) Deaths in Sweden, which adopted very limited social distancing and no lockdown. The smoothed curve of new cases and new deaths remains elevated for much longer than in NYC although there is a very similar linear descent H(t) on the log scale. The BLP seems to edge up but a good prediction of the current plateau could have been made on 22-Apr-20. This is 10 days earlier than a prediction of Sweden peaking we made on Twitter on 2-May-20 (Levitt-Twitter) showing the power of the BLP method that we did not have back then. (c) Confirmed Cases Russia are growing rapidly, although the number of new cases per day peaked on 8-May-20 they remain stable at a high level. The BLP method tentatively predicts a plateau N value of about 700,000 cases in Russia. (d) Deaths in Mexico are still far from any clear plateau value..

Figure. 7: Showing the BLP graphs for active locations with prediction approaching convergence of *N* (Peru, Brazil, Belarus, UAE, Kuwait)). These locations have been selected from **Table 3** because the predicted plateau is significantly higher than the current level (red dashed horizontal line). As this involves locations with large numbers of expected additional cases and deaths. Forecasting the outcome could be of major value to the countries involved. The locations also show a range of different behaviors.

Comment [M1]: TO DO

LEGENDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY FIGURES

Figure S1. Showing how the U parameter has a major effect on the shape of the Gompertz Function, affecting as it does the trajectory of the Total Count (X(t), in black), the new counts by day ((X(t)-(X(t-1)), in red) and the gradient of the ln(Total Counts), which is $\ln[X(t)]$ - $\ln[X(t-1)]$ or $\ln[\ln[X(t)/X(t-1)]]$ (in blue). The solid lines show trajectories for the Total Counts, New Counts, and Gradient (X(t)) for a X(t) parameter of 7 days, the shortest decay time seen for real cases (Table 2). The dotted lines show the same data for X(t) days and the dashed line shows the same data for X(t) days. The trajectory of X(t), the gradient of X(t), is a simple straight line with slope of X(t)

Figure S2. (a) Showing how straight line fits have strong predictive power. The lines in green are fitted to data that was available 50 days ago. The line in magenta is fitted to current data and is a straight-line continuation of the best line 50 days ago. The Correlation Coefficient (CC), which is used to measure the straightness of the line as a function of ln(N), is sensitive to departure from linearity. (a) Shows that as ln(N) varies the CC value reaches its maximum smoothly. (b) Distribution of correlation coefficients value as the guessed value of ln(N) is changed.

Fig S3. Showing our Four-Panel graphs with different levels of smoothing of the data using the LOWESS method (see text). The strength of the smoothing increasing progressively for SMO1 through SMO5 and one sees that while local ripples are eliminated there is no shift of the peak position. Such shift do occur with simpler smoothing schemes such a running averages.

Supplementary Methods

Proof that any growth function has a Y(t) function that tend to be linear for large t.

$$\ln\left(\frac{X(t)}{N}\right) = m \ln\left[1 - Be^{-k\left(\frac{t-\mu}{\delta}\right)^{\nu}}\right]$$

$$\lim_{t \to \infty} Be^{-k\left(\frac{t-\mu}{\delta}\right)^{\nu}} = 0$$

$$\lim_{Z \to 0} \ln(1 - Z) = -Z$$

$$\ln\left(\frac{X(t)}{N}\right) = -Bme^{-k\left(\frac{t-\mu}{\delta}\right)^{\nu}}$$

$$-\ln\ln\left(\frac{N}{X(t)}\right) = Bmvk\left(\frac{t-\mu}{\delta}\right) = t/U + const$$

Fig. 1: Showing the Gompertz Function Y(t) Straightened to Line Y(y) to Predict Plateau N.

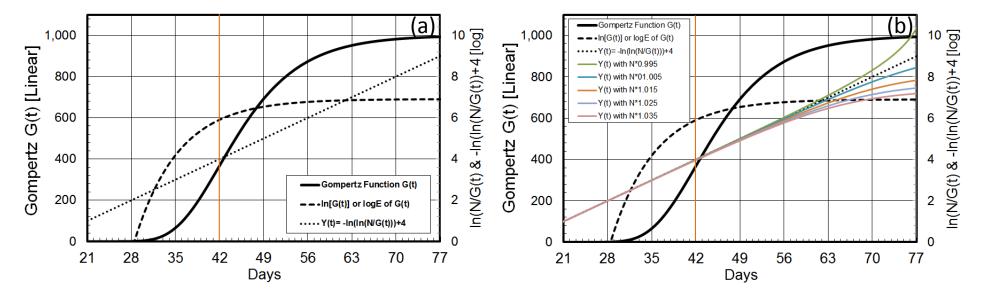


Fig. 2: Showing How Early Raw Data Analysis Shows Non-Exponential Growth.

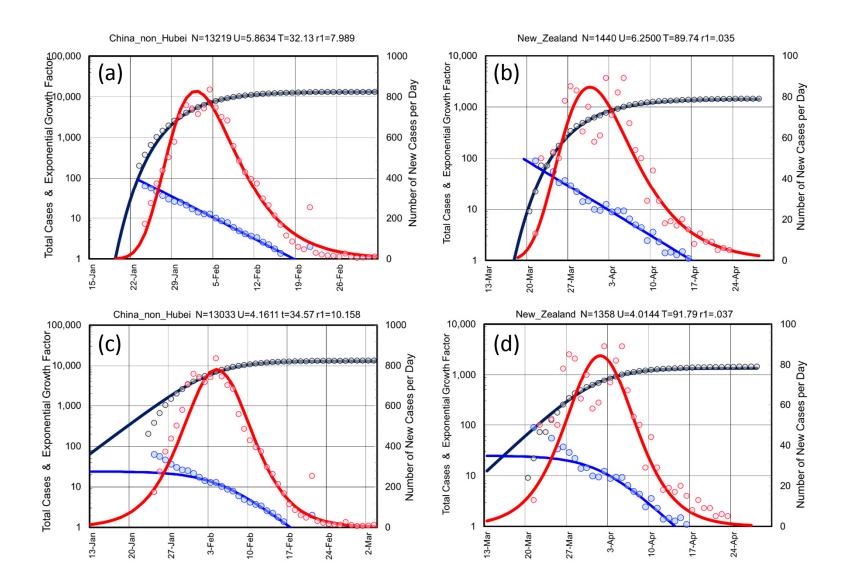
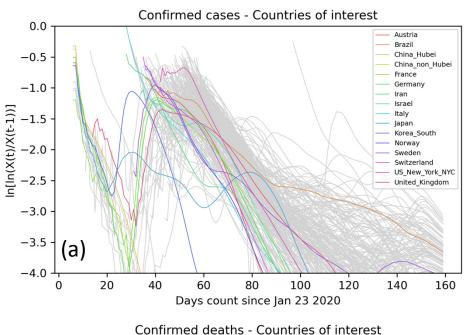


Fig. 3: Value ln[H(t)]=ln[ln[X(t)/X(t-1)]] Deceases Linearly as Expected for Gompertz Function. (data is smoothed with SMO5 as difference of small numbers)



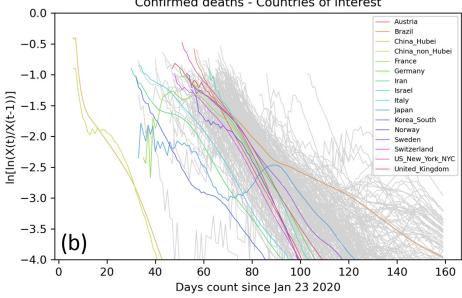
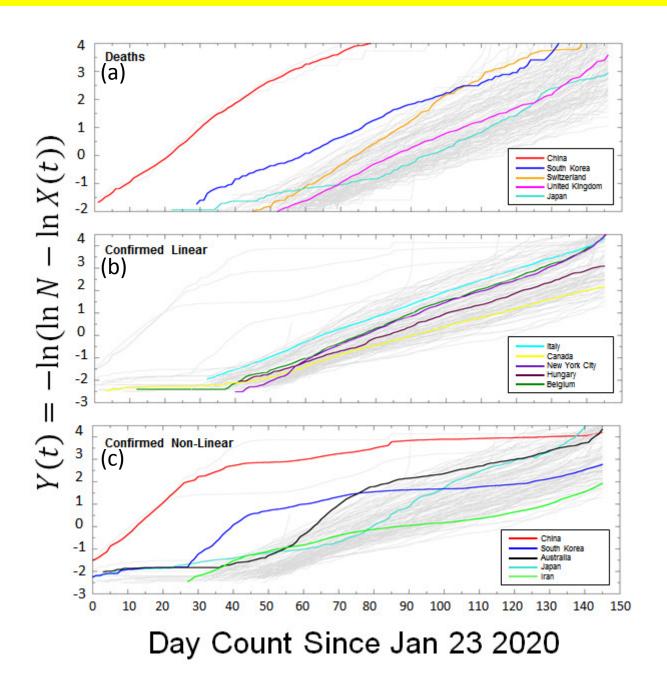


Fig. 4: Function Y(t)=ln[ln[N/X(t)]] Give Straight Lines for Raw Unsmoothed Data.



Predicted Confirmed Germany 26-Jun-2020 00

Fig 5: Showing Best Line and Smooth Peak Graphs for Germany.

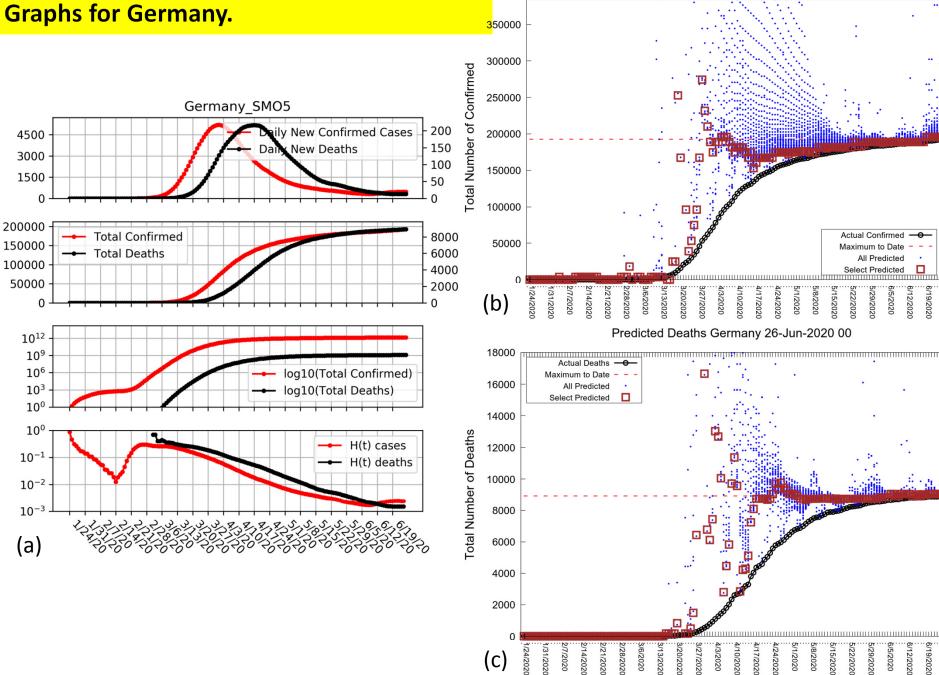


Fig 6: Plots showing Best Line and Smooth Peak Graphs for Selected Locations.

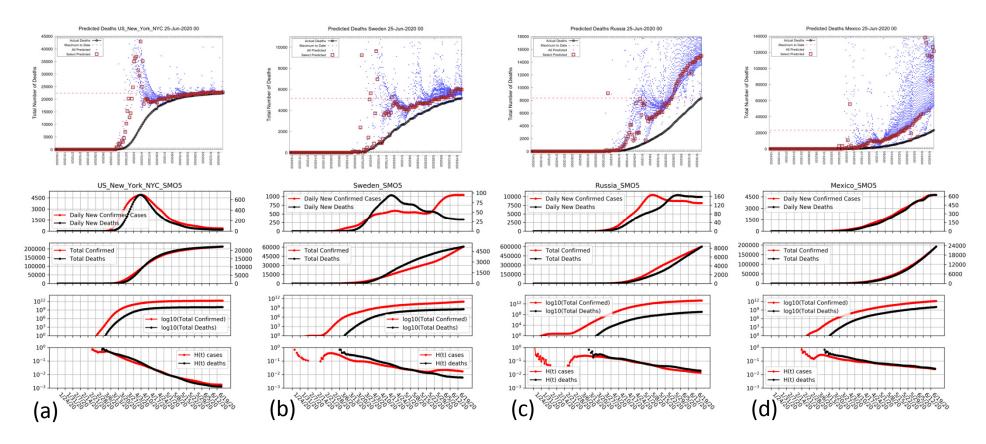


Fig. 7: Best Line Predictions for Six Active Locations Ready for Forecast.

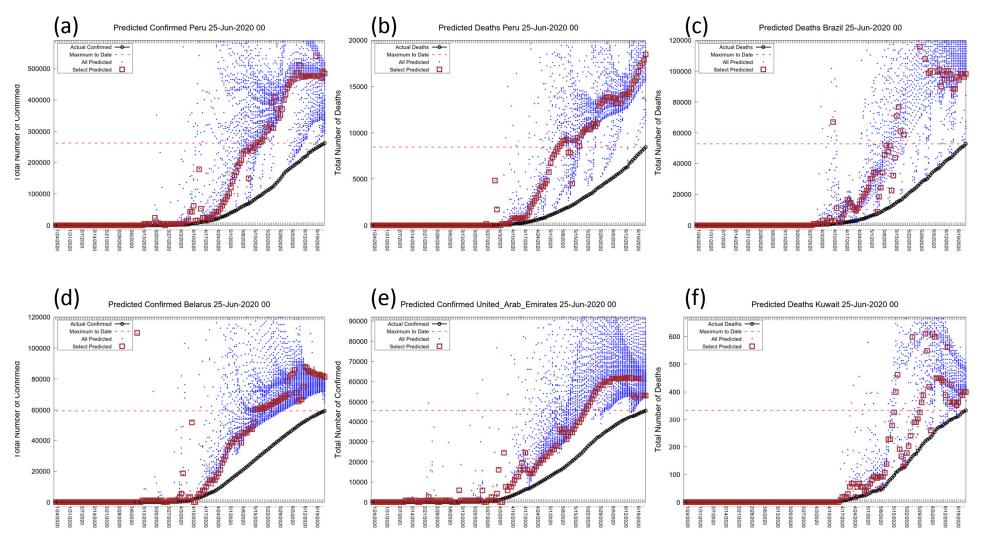


Fig. S1 Showing affect of the parameter U (in days) on the Gompertz Function.

Total Cases (log₁₀ Scale)

0.1000 0.0100 0.0010 0.0001

28

14

42

56

70

Days

98

112

126

84

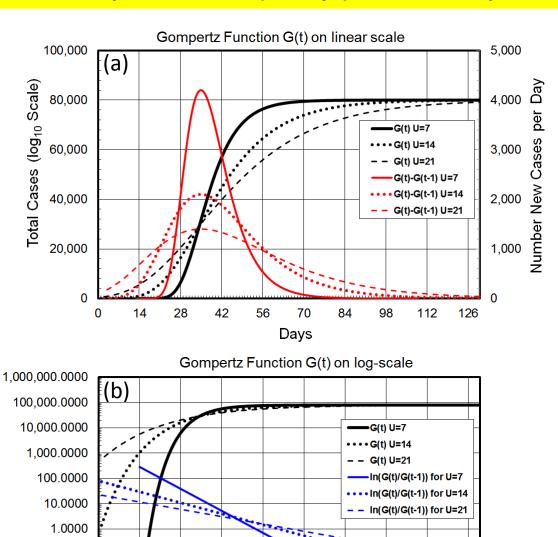


Fig. S2: Showing how the line $Y(t)=\ln[\ln[N/X(t)]]$ varies for different values of N. The straightness of the line is measured by the correlation coefficient between Y(t) and t. The value of the correlation coefficient varies smoothly as value of N is changed

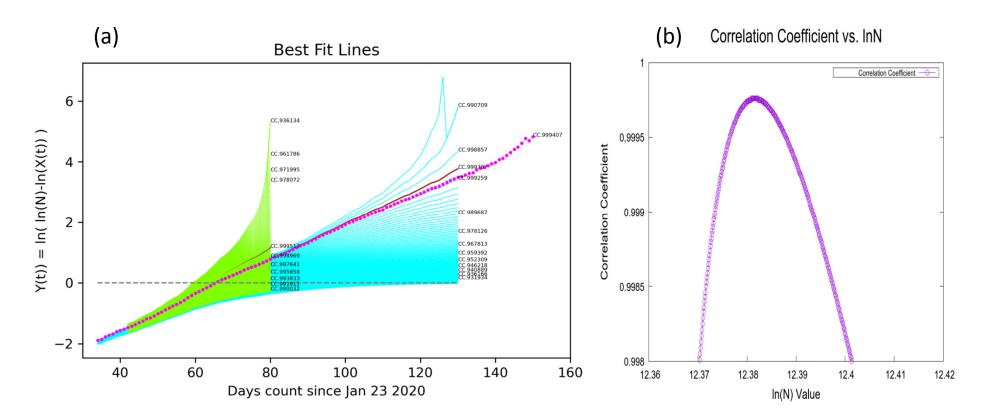
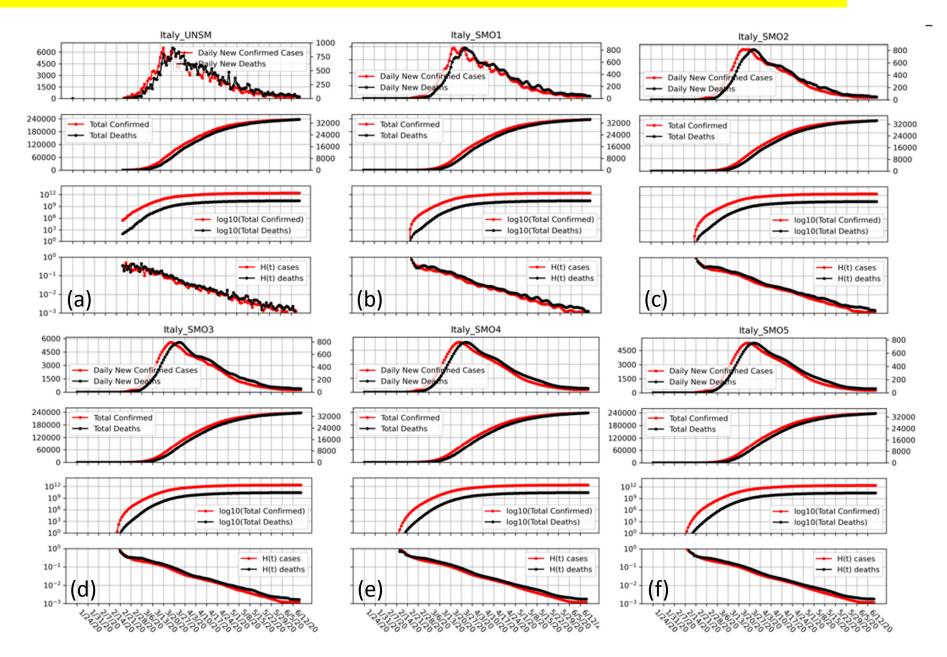


Fig S3. Showing five levels of smoothing on our standard four panel plots.



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Table 1: Classification of Selected Locations (LOWESS Smoothing SMO5 used to find peaks). KEY: 'c' means New Cases peaked, 'C' means at least halfway down this peak, 'd', 'D' are same for New Deaths. We also give Day of Peak, Day Halfway Up, and Day Halfway Down. Day Peak Confirmed is defined as (Day of Peak + Day Halfway Down)/2.

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Country or Region of County	Classification Code	Number Confirmed Cases	Day Cases Halfway Up	Day New Cases Peak	Day Cases Peak Confirmed	Day Cases Halfway Down	Number Deaths	Day Deaths Halfway Up	Day New Deaths Peak	Day Deaths Peak Confirmed	Day Deaths Halfway Down	Deaths per Case
China_non_Hubei	cCdD	16518	1	12	16	21	128	14	22	27	32	0.8%
China	cCdD	84653	6	15	20	25	4640	11	24	30	36	5.5%
China_Hubei	cCdD	68135	7	16	21	26	4512	11	24	30	36	6.6%
Korea_South	cCdD	12535	33	40	44	48	281	39	63	73	84	2.2%
Italy	cCdD	238833	51	63	77	92	34675	54	67	80	94	14.5%
Norway	cCdD	8772	51	65	71	78	248	66	76	84	93	2.8%
Malaysia	cCdD	8590	53	69	78	87	121	59	68	77	86	1.4%
Switzerland	cCdD	31332	54	64	72	80	1956	63	74	84	95	6.2%
Greece	cCdD	3302	54	68	74	81	190	60	70	82	94	5.8%
Austria	cCdD	17408	56	64	69	75	693	64	76	86	96	4.0%
	cCdD		56	65	71	77	110		76	82		
Luxembourg		4133						63			88	2.7%
Thailand	cCdD	3156	56	66	72	78	58	66	76	81	87	1.8%
Australia	cCdD	7521	57	65	69	74	103	67	74	79	84	1.4%
Spain	cCdD	246752	57	68	77	87	28325	60	70	80	90	11.5%
Germany	cCdD	192480	57	69	76	84	8914	68	86	94	103	4.6%
Czechia	cCdD	10650	58	69	76	84	339	67	76	84	93	3.2%
Iran	cCdD	209970	58	69	78	88	9863	49	69	85	101	4.7%
France	cCdD	191730	58	70	80	90	29652	66	77	85	93	15.5%
Finland	cCdD	7155	59	77	94	112	327	82	91	99	107	4.6%
Netherlands	cCdD	49722	59	79	87	96	6095	63	74	88	102	12.3%
Israel	cCdD	21512	61	71	80	90	308	70	82	89	96	1.4%
Portugal	cCdD	39737	61	73	84	95	1540	65	81	92	104	3.9%
Belgium	cCdD	60810	61	79	88	97	9713	71	82	89	97	16.0%
Denmark	cCdD	12561	63	74	87	101	603	64	75	89	103	4.8%
Romania	cCdD	24505	64	82	102	122	1539	69	102	111	121	6.3%
United_Kingdom	cCdD	306210	65	85	102	120	42927	69	82	95	109	14.0%
Canada	cCdD	103767	67	91	109	128	8512	80	102	117	133	8.2%
Ecuador	cCdD	51643	68	81	92	104	4274	94	105	114	123	8.3%
Hungary	cCdD	4107	69	83	94	105	573	75	89	101	113	14.0%
Turkey	cCdD	190165	69	83	92	101	5001	71	88	97	107	2.6%
Serbia	cCdD	13092	71	84	92	101	263	66	89	99	109	2.0%
Algeria	cCdD	12076	71	117	97	77	861	68	77	82	88	7.1%
Ireland	cCdD	25391	72	83	90	98	1720	74	88	95	103	6.8%
Japan	cCdD	17879	73	84	90	97	965	81	97	112	127	5.4%
Morocco	cCdD	10344	74	89	103	118	214	65	75	81	87	2.1%
Sweden	cCdD	60837	81	146	130	115	5161	72	89	109	130	8.5%
United_Arab_Emirates	cCdD	45683	86	120	133	146	305	90			115	0.7%
Tajikistan	cCdD	5567	110	120	127	134	52	103	111	115	120	0.9%
Diamond Princess	cCd=	712	18	25	28	32	13	27	35	31	27	1.8%
US	c=dD	2347022	60	23 67	-	-	121228	70	85	104		5.2%
Poland	c=dD	32527	66	140	-	-	1375	73	93		119	4.2%
		6027	113	132			1375		149	133	117	2.2%
Congo_Kinshasa	c=dD	3409	64	74	-	-	172	109		91	75	
Bosnia_and_Herzegovina	==dD		-		-	-		70 67	108			5.0%
Dominican_Republic	==dD	26355	100	125	-	-	675	67	83	98	114	2.6%
Indonesia	==dD	44724		124	-	-	2535	78		120	92	5.7%
Cameroon	==dD	11331	116	135	-	-	313	87	107	99	91	2.8%

Philippines (which was not certified by peer review) is the auth	or/funder	who has gra	nted r	nedRx	iv a lic	ense	o display t	he pre	print ii 82	100	118	4.0%
Cote d Ivoire	==dD	7021	137	112		-	58	85	148		91	0.8%
Belarus	c=d=	59487	86	115	_	_	357	81	148	_	_	0.6%
Russia	c=d=	598878	92	109	_	_	8349		132	_	_	1.4%
Kuwait	c=d=	41033	104	117	-	-	334		130	-	-	0.8%
Qatar	c=d=	89579	104	129	-	-	99	122		-	-	0.1%
Sudan	c=d=	8889	105	123	_	_	548		130	-	-	6.2%
Afghanistan	c=d=	29481	113	134	-	-	618	129	142	-	-	2.1%
Armenia	c=d=	21006	118	142	-	-	372		147	-	-	1.8%
Haiti	c=d=	5324	121	134	-	-	89		145	-	-	1.7%
Ethiopia	c=d=	4848	128	147	_	_	75	133	141	-	-	1.5%
North Macedonia	c=d=	5311	131	147	-	-	251	137	148	-	-	4.7%
Peru	C===	260810	101	129	-	-	7820	110	55	-	-	3.0%
Chile	C===	250767	116	141	-	-	4035	130	147	-	-	1.6%
Egypt	C===	58141		148	-	-	2124	136	101	-	-	3.7%
Pakistan	C===	188926	128	145	-	-	3417	128	54	-	-	1.8%
WholeWorld	==d=	10583998	63	69	-	-	609543	65	82	-	-	5.8%
Ukraine	==d=	36643	86	103	-	-	1045	84	114	-	-	2.9%
Senegal	==d=	5705	95	147	-	-	89	138	146	-	-	1.6%
Bahrain	==d=	21513	110	116	-	-	67	136	148	-	-	0.3%
El Salvador	==d=	4586	111	126	-	-	113	136		-	-	2.5%
 Kazakhstan	==d=	17537	114	126	_	_	134	138	148	-	-	0.8%
India	==d=	417196	123	16	-	-	14476	123	146	-	-	3.5%
Bangladesh	==d=	108913	123	61	-	-	1545	121	147	-	-	1.4%
Nigeria	==d=	19649	123	73	_	_	533	100	149	-	-	2.7%
Guatemala	==d=	13090	124	64	-	-	582		139	-	-	4.4%
Kenya	==d=	4515	124	73	-	-	128	105		-	-	2.8%
Oman	==d=	29434	126	90	-	-	140	126		-	-	0.5%
South Africa	==d=	94537	131	64	-	-	2102	127		-	-	2.2%
Argentina	==d=	42354	131	96	-	-	1078	127	148	-	-	2.5%
Mauritania	==d=	2823	135	66	-	-	114	127	139	-	-	4.0%
Bulgaria	====	3856	88	148	-	-	198	73	147	-	-	5.1%
Ghana	====	13588	100	107	-	-	83	141	148	-	-	0.6%
Ghana Saudi_Arabia	====	13588 151974	100 111	107 118	- -	-	83 1223	141 129	148 89	-	-	0.6% 0.8%
					- - -							
Saudi_Arabia	====	151974	111	118	- - -	-	1223	129	89	-	-	0.8%
Saudi_Arabia Mexico	====	151974 177175	111 116	118 40	- - - -	1	1223 21512	129 119	89 54	- -	-	0.8% 12.1%
Saudi_Arabia Mexico Brazil Bolivia	====	151974 177175 1058432	111 116 117	118 40 30	- - - -	1 1	1223 21512 49624	129 119 104	89 54 146 87	- -	- - -	0.8% 12.1% 4.7%
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Saudi_Arabia Mexico Brazil Bolivia Azerbaijan Panama Moldova Colombia Iraq Honduras Canada_Quebec Canada_Ontario Canada_Alberta Italy_Marche Italy_Lombardia Italy_Veneto Italy_Friuli_Venezia_Giulia Italy_P.ATrento_P_A_Trento Italy_Liguria Italy_Abruzzo Italy_Puglia	==== ==== ==== ==== ==== ==== ==== ==== ====	151974 177175 1058432 23865 12529 25162 13707 66449 30056 12383 54884 35657 7781 6775 93173 19250 3305 4465 9939 10217 3282 4529	111 116 117 124 127 128 128 130 134 138 68 70 82 48 48 51 52 52 53 54 54	118 40 30 50 77 95 117 37 72 125 102 88 93 59 61 64 64 74 65 66 64 67	- - 1114 113 98 70 74 77 74 84 83 77 78 79	126 138 103 82 88 90 84 95 102 89 92 92	1223 21512 49624 771 152 507 462 2274 1054 378 5424 2676 153 994 16579 2004 344 466 1553 1100 460 542	129 119 104 126 128 76 100 131 139 108 81 79 70 55 53 58 54 59 55 58 62	89 54 146 87 147 147 107 66 140 105 100 100 67 65 71 69 67 81 69 73	- - - - - - - 120 109 105 75 75 92 84 80 83 91 84 84 84		0.8% 12.1% 4.7% 3.2% 1.2% 2.0% 3.4% 3.5% 3.1% 9.9% 7.5% 2.0% 14.7% 17.8% 10.4% 10.4% 10.4% 10.4% 15.6% 10.8% 14.0% 12.0%
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Saudi_Arabia Mexico Brazil Bolivia Azerbaijan Panama Moldova Colombia Iraq Honduras Canada_Quebec Canada_Ontario Canada_Alberta Italy_Marche Italy_Lombardia Italy_Veneto Italy_Friuli_Venezia_Giulia Italy_P.ATrento_P_A_Trento Italy_Liguria Italy_Abruzzo Italy_Abruzzo Italy_Puglia Italy_Lazio Italy_Piemonte Italy_Sicilia Italy_Campania	==== ==== ==== ==== ==== cCdD cCdD cCdD cCdD cCdD cCdD cCdD cCdD	151974 177175 1058432 23865 12529 25162 13707 66449 30056 12383 54884 35657 7781 6775 93173 19250 3305 4465 9939 10217 3282 4529 8033 31254 3073 4634	111 116 117 124 127 128 128 130 134 138 68 70 82 48 48 51 52 52 53 53 54 54 55 56 57	118 40 30 50 77 95 117 37 72 125 102 88 93 59 61 64 64 74 65 66 64 67 66 82 64 70	114 113 98 70 74 77 74 84 83 77 78 79 78 91 73 76		1223 21512 49624 771 152 507 462 2274 1054 378 5424 2676 153 994 16579 2004 344 466 1553 1100 460 542 832 4059 280 431	129 119 104 126 128 76 100 131 139 108 81 79 70 55 53 58 54 59 55 58 62 58 61 60 58	89 54 146 87 147 147 107 66 140 105 100 67 65 71 69 69 67 81 69 73 99 83 68 68	- - - - - - - 120 109 105 75 75 92 84 80 83 91 84 84 113 92 79 80	- - - - - - - - 135 118 111 83 86 114 100 92 100 102 99 96 128 101 91 92	0.8% 12.1% 4.7% 3.2% 1.2% 2.0% 3.4% 3.5% 3.1% 9.9% 7.5% 2.0% 14.7% 10.4% 10.4% 10.4% 10.4% 10.4% 10.4% 10.4% 10.4% 10.8% 14.0% 19.9% 19.9%
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Saudi_Arabia Mexico Brazil Bolivia Azerbaijan Panama Moldova Colombia Iraq Honduras Canada_Quebec Canada_Ontario Canada_Alberta Italy_Marche Italy_Lombardia Italy_Veneto Italy_Friuli_Venezia_Giulia Italy_P.ATrento_P_A_Trento Italy_Liguria Italy_Abruzzo Italy_Abruzzo Italy_Puglia Italy_Lazio Italy_Piemonte Italy_Sicilia Italy_Campania	==== ==== ==== ==== ==== cCdD cCdD cCdD cCdD cCdD cCdD cCdD cCdD	151974 177175 1058432 23865 12529 25162 13707 66449 30056 12383 54884 35657 7781 6775 93173 19250 3305 4465 9939 10217 3282 4529 8033 31254 3073 4634	111 116 117 124 127 128 128 130 134 138 68 70 82 48 48 51 52 52 53 53 54 54 55 56 57	118 40 30 50 77 95 117 37 72 125 102 88 93 59 61 64 64 74 65 66 64 67 66 82 64 70	114 113 98 70 74 77 74 84 83 77 78 79 78 91 73 76		1223 21512 49624 771 152 507 462 2274 1054 378 5424 2676 153 994 16579 2004 344 466 1553 1100 460 542 832 4059 280 431	129 119 104 126 128 76 100 131 139 108 81 79 70 55 53 58 54 59 55 58 62 58 61 60 58	89 54 146 87 147 147 107 66 140 105 100 67 65 71 69 69 67 81 69 73 99 83 68 68	- - - - - - - 120 109 105 75 75 92 84 80 83 91 84 84 113 92 79 80	- - - - - - - - 135 118 111 83 86 114 100 92 100 102 99 96 128 101 91 92	0.8% 12.1% 4.7% 3.2% 1.2% 2.0% 3.4% 3.5% 3.1% 9.9% 7.5% 2.0% 14.7% 10.4% 10.4% 10.4% 10.4% 10.4% 10.4% 10.4% 10.4% 10.8% 14.0% 19.9% 19.9%

US_Louisiana_Orleans	cCdD	7571	64	72	76	80	529	62	79	89	99	7.0%
US_Michigan_Oakland	cCdD	11791	64	75	82	90	1081	68	81	95	110	9.2%
US_Michigan_Wayne	cCdD	22245	64	73	80	88	2690	70	91	98	105	12.1%
US_Missouri_StLouis_St_Louis	cCdD	5941	64	75	99	123	555	76	95	107	119	9.3%
US_Indiana_Marion	cCdD	10977	65	102	115	128	669	73	98	113	129	6.1%
US_New_Jersey_Bergen	cCdD	19069	65	74	84	94	1706	71	82	94	107	8.9%
US_New_Jersey_Monmouth	cCdD	8998	65	75	86	98	700	71	85	107	130	7.8%
US_New_Jersey_Ocean	cCdD	9466	65	75	90	105	860	72	98	109	121	9.1%
US_New_York_Orange	cCdD	10666	65	77	88	99	473	70	78	91	105	4.4%
US_New_York_Suffolk	cCdD	41056	65	75	84	94	1970	71	80	96	113	4.8%
US_Connecticut_Fairfield	cCdD	16522	66	88	96	105	1367	75	88	99	111	8.3%
US_Louisiana_Jefferson	cCdD	8888	66	74	78	82	479	66	81	89	98	5.4%
US_Michigan_Macomb	cCdD	7175	66	75	85	96	898	72	83	93	103	12.5%
US_New_Jersey_Essex	cCdD	18592	66	78	89	100	1765	71	86	96	107	9.5%
US_New_Jersey_Morris	cCdD	6727	66	76	86	96	642	71	82	96	111	9.5%
US_New_York_Dutchess	cCdD	4150	66	75	87	99	151	102	109	112	115	3.6%
US_Pennsylvania_Northampton	cCdD	3327	66	75	92	109	255	93	103	108	113	7.7%
US_Louisiana_East_Baton_Rouge	cCdD	4514	67	76	82	88	265	73	94	106	118	5.9%
US_New_Jersey_Hudson	cCdD	19316	67	78	91	105	1308	78	86	91	96	6.8%
US_New_Jersey_Passaic	cCdD	16794	67	91	98	105	1019	80	96	103	110	6.1%
US_New_York_Erie	cCdD	7073	67	99	116	133	632	78	103	118	133	8.9%
US_New_York_Monroe	cCdD	3540	67	117	126	136	259	71	93	115	138	7.3%
US_Pennsylvania_Lehigh	cCdD	4109	67	75	84	93	281	93	118	123	128	6.8%
US_Pennsylvania_Montgomery	cCdD	8159	67	79	107	135	787	83	102	107	112	9.6%
US_New_Jersey_Middlesex	cCdD	16640	68	78	92	106	1104	73	100	108	116	6.6%
US_New_Jersey_Somerset	cCdD	4818	68	79	92	105	441	74	90	100	110	9.2%
US_New_Jersey_Union	cCdD	16341	68	82	90	98	1139	75	91	101	112	7.0%
US_Pennsylvania_Philadelphia	cCdD	25335	68	94	105	116	1564	77	103	114	126	6.2%
US_Colorado_Arapahoe	cCdD	4993	69	97	114	131	342	82	114	107	101	6.8%
US_Massachusetts_Hampden	cCdD	6620	69	93	107	121	649	77	91	100	110	9.8%
US_Massachusetts_Norfolk	cCdD	9042	69	91	99	108	919	81	93	101	110	10.2%
US_Illinois_Will	cCdD	6433	70	103	116	130	310	73	80	99	119	4.8%
US_Pennsylvania_Delaware	cCdD	7065	70	82	102	123	637	91	103	108	113	9.0%
US_Delaware_New_Castle	cCdD	4697	71	122	129	137	239	84	115	123	131	5.1%
US_District_of_Columbia	cCdD	10094	71	103	116	130	537	81	96	110	124	5.3%
US_Indiana_Lake	cCdD	4489	71	98	119	140	238	77			141	5.3%
US_Massachusetts_Suffolk	cCdD	19601	71	91	98	106	976	82	95		110	5.0%
US_New_Jersey_Burlington	cCdD	5056	71	96		116	372	84		111		7.4%
US_Pennsylvania_Bucks	cCdD	5580	71	94		120	555	86	102	110		
US_Connecticut_New_Haven	cCdD	12225	72	84	98	113	1065	77	91		123	
US_New_Jersey_Mercer	cCdD	7560	72	99		123	530	78		114		7.0%
US_Colorado_Adams	cCdD	3941	73	102	120		154	72	91		140	3.9%
US_Colorado_Denver	cCdD	6700	73	98		134	369	77		119		5.5%
US_Massachusetts_Essex	cCdD	15885	73	94	105		1081	81	98	110		6.8%
US_Massachusetts_Middlesex	cCdD	23647	73	90		112	1812	83	97		116	7.7%
US_Massachusetts_Plymouth	cCdD	8604	73	94		113	647	83	97		118	7.5%
US_New_Jersey_Camden	cCdD	7163	73	101		125	421	80		124		5.9%
US_Connecticut_Hartford	cCdD	11443	74	87		125	1352	80	91			11.8%
US_Pennsylvania_Berks	cCdD	4444	74	84	96	109	345	84				7.8%
US_Illinois_Cook	cCdD	87784	75	101		129	4439	77		123		5.1%
US_Massachusetts_Worcester	cCdD	12192	76	98	111	124	905	88		121		7.4%
US_South_Dakota_Minnehaha	cCdD	3537	77	85	99	113	55	96		111		1.6%
US_Maryland_Montgomery	cCdD	14204	78				725	85	98	114		5.1%
US_Maryland_Prince_Georges_Prince_George_s	cCdD	18080	78		119		661	83		119		3.7%
US_Maryland_Baltimore_City	cCdD	7148	79		133		319	82		120		4.5%
US_Delaware_Sussex	cCdD	4509	81	95	107		176	82		115		3.9%
US_Kentucky_Jefferson	cCdD	3651	82		118		185	74	84	94	104	5.1%
US_Michigan_Michigan_Department_Corrections_	cCdD	4097	84		124		68	80	92	99	107	1.7%
US_Illinois_DuPage	cCdD	8736	87		121		455	80		120		5.2%
US_Michigan_Kent	cCdD	4628	87	98	114	130	128	82	131	106	82	2.8%

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139 108

137 103

2.1%

3.2%

1.9%

2.3%

2.2%

1.5%

US California Fresno

US Arizona Maricopa

US_Texas_Travis

US Texas Bexar

US_California_Riverside

US Florida Hillsborough

Type	Location	Class	Maximum Value Today	BL <i>N</i> -Prediction Today	% SD of N Plateau	Days at Plateau	Day of BL Prediction	Day of PD Prediction	BL N -Prediction Then	PD N -Prediction Then	% Error BL Prediction	% Error DM Prediction	BL or DM Better?
Cases		сС	84572	85924	0.00	132	14	20	98422	103778	16.4	22.7	BL
	China_Hubei	сС	68135	69197	0.51	98	14	21	74259	89953	9.0	32.0	BL
	China_non_Hubei	сС	16437	16376	5.21	106	14	16	15445	17073	6.0	3.9	PD
	Thailand	сC	3148	3198	0.00	82	70	72	3081	3468	2.1	10.2	BL
Cases		сС	17780	18064	0.00	57	93	90	19378	22520	9.0	26.7	BL
	Australia	cC	7474	7172	6.78	85	66	69 70	7869	8665	5.3	15.9	BL
	Germany Malaysia	cC cC	191272 8572	194331 8891	0.00 2.10	83 46	68 106	76 78	208464 7125	198918 7600	9.0 16.9	4.0 11.3	PD PD
	Diamond_Princess	cC	712	719	0.57	25	127	76 28	7123 723	1041	1.5	46.2	BL
	France	сC		194075		73	79	80		187814	5.8	1.7	PD
	Iran	сC		281110		12	138	78	246090		20.1	41.3	BL
Cases		сC		241872		72	80	77		203093	16.9	14.8	PD
	Italy_Lombardia	сC	92968	94454	0.00	70	64	74	87585	77867	5.8	16.2	BL
	Italy_Veneto	сC	19245	19552	0.00	80	72	77	17445	18780	9.4	2.4	PD
	United_Kingdom	сС	304331	320393	0.04	52	100	102		282220	13.2	7.3	PD
	Canada	сС	103078	112170	1.50	48	104	109	93302	111805	9.5	8.5	PD
Cases	Italy_Liguria	сС	9927	10085	0.00	69	62	83	8985	7246	9.5	27.0	BL
Cases	Spain	сС	246272	250211	0.00	76	76	77		240035	9.0	2.5	PD
	Italy_Piemonte	сС	31241	31740	0.00	69	83	91	27277	46594	12.7	49.1	BL
	Canada_Ontario	сС	35217	38549	1.10	30	122	112	31876	31105	9.5	11.7	BL
	Italy_Campania	сС	4617	4809	1.46	69	80	76	4061	6241	12.0	35.2	BL
	Italy_Marche	сC	6768	6876	0.00	84	61	70	6036	5874	10.8	13.2	BL
	Italy_Toscana	сC	10210	10373	0.00	84	68	77 74	9189	10362	10.0	1.5	PD
	Norway	сC	8745	8884	0.00	85	67	71	7915	9957	9.5	13.9	BL
	Switzerland Austria	cC cC	31292 17341	31792 16613	0.00	79 82	71 69	72 69	26465 15055	31956 18068	15.4 13.2	2.1 4.2	PD PD
	Netherlands	сC	49593	48376	4.04	71	81	87	44889	62504	9.5	26.0	BL
	US_Washington_King	сC	9211	9125	2.36	72	79	89	8337	9138	9.5	0.8	PD
	Belgium	сC	60550	61421		67	85	88	54807	71749	9.5	18.5	BL
	Italy_Friuli_Venezia_Giulia	сC	3305	3357	0.00	92	60	74	3235	3270	2.1	1.1	PD
	Italy_Lazio	сС	8017	8145	0.00	74	64	78	7853	6760	2.0	15.7	BL
	US_California_Santa_Clara	сС	3547	3118	9.89	42	110	78	2555	2375	28.0	33.0	BL
	Algeria	сС	11771	14568	0.00	33	119	97	12403	19598	5.4	66.5	BL
Cases	Italy_Sicilia	сС	3072	3464	0.79	71	81	73	2806	2859	8.7	6.9	PD
	Finland	сС	7143	7509	3.30	61	91	94	6201	6561	13.2	8.1	PD
	Italy_Puglia	сС	4527	4599	0.00	82	69	79	4103	4275	9.4	5.6	PD
	US_New_York_Westchester	сC	34521	35052	0.14		89	81	28972	22523	16.1	34.8	BL
	US_Washington_Snohomish	сC	3237	3321	2.87		101	75	2690	2965	16.9	8.4	PD
	Denmark	сC	12391	12587	0.87		93	87	10300	11813	16.9	4.7	PD
	Ireland	cC	25379	25630	5.04	49	103	90	24674	30746	2.8	21.1	BL
	US_New_York_NYC		3281	215935		62 71	90	88 70		237634	17.1	11.9	PD
	Italy_Abruzzo Italy_P.ATrento_P_A_Trento	cC cC	3281 4463	3319 4534	0.54	71 72	81 80	78 84	2848 4039	2557 6241	13.2 9.5	22.1 39.8	BL BL
	Romania	сC	24045	22183	7.07	52	99	04 102	18278	18062	9.5 24.0	39.6 24.9	BL
	US_New_York_Nassau	сC	41479	42079	0.21	72	79	84	38790	46547	6.5	12.2	BL
	US_Illinois_Cook	сC	87177	99270	6.23	41	110	115	85350	109201	2.1	25.3	BL
	US_Massachusetts_Middlesex	сC	23574	23978	0.24	63	81	101	25692	27036	9.0	14.7	BL
	Canada_Alberta	сС	7704	7827	0.00	45	107	98	6404	10720	16.9	39.1	BL
	Hungary	сС	4094	4241	1.41	53	99	94	4915	4074	20.1	0.5	PD
Cases		сС	12894	11884	6.82	59	76	92	13100	13265	1.6	2.9	BL
	US_Massachusetts_Norfolk	сС	8994	9137	0.00	58	93	99	10799	12237	20.1	36.1	BL
	US_Massachusetts_Suffolk	сС	19551	19920	8.39	62	88	98	19141	25935	2.1	32.7	BL
	US_New_Jersey_Bergen	сC	19010	19294	0.23	63	89	84	16374	16459	13.9	13.4	PD
Cases	Luxembourg	сС	4120	4185	0.00	79	73	71	3732	4308	9.4	4.6	PD

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(which was not certified by peer review) is Cases US_Louisiana_Orleans It is made	the au	thor/funde ole/under a	r, who has a <mark>081-93-</mark> N	i grante <mark>√0 400 </mark> ।	a med nteilna	atior a lic	cense to ense.	6804	8948	9.5	19.0	BL
Cases US_New_York_Suffolk		40972	41422		69	82	84	39733	38607	3.0	5.8	BL
Cases US_Pennsylvania_Montgomery	сC	8103	9371	8.07	29	123	107	7689	4930	5.1	39.2	BL
Cases Canada_Quebec	сC	54766	57803	1.81	44	108	114	48524	84353	11.4	54.0	BL
Cases US_Colorado_Denver Cases US Connecticut Fairfield	cC cC	6630 16475	7470 16793	0.00	44 64	107 78	116 96	6244 14391	7883 21768	5.8 12.6	18.9 32.1	BL BL
Cases US_Georgia_Fulton	сC	5496	5609	3.48	28	124	96	4568	4009	16.9	27.1	BL
Cases US_Louisiana_Jefferson	сC	8681	9041	8.62	39	107	78	7536	8298	13.2	4.4	PD
Cases US_Michigan_Oakland	сC	11685	12085	6.99	40	112	82	9713	9916	16.9	15.1	PD
Cases US_Colorado_Arapahoe	сС	4941	5390	0.99	46	106	114	4654	6252	5.8	26.5	BL
Cases US_New_York_Rockland	сС	13504	13735	0.33	54	98	84	11889	12762	12.0	5.5	PD
Cases Turkey		187685	167702		66	86	92		176867	27.2	5.8	PD
Cases US_District_of_Columbia	сC	10020	11001	0.68	44	106	116	9439	13925	5.8	39.0	BL
Cases US_Maryland_Montgomery	сC	14079	18786	6.92	32	120	129	20025	23621	42.2	67.8	BL
Cases US_Michigan_Wayne Cases US_Minnesota_Hennepin	cC cC	22139 10830	22493 11793	0.00 7.00	53 18	99 134	80 129	18403 11003	18381 15964	16.9 1.6	17.0 47.4	BL BL
Cases US_New_Jersey_Essex	сC	18551	18870	0.25	70	73	89	18718	16187	0.9	12.7	BL
Cases US_New_Jersey_Hudson	сC	19280	19656	2.15	60	92	91	17451	15918	9.5	17.4	BL
Cases US_New_Jersey_Middlesex	сC	16605	16851	0.31	59	93	92	14152	12224	14.8	26.4	BL
Cases US_New_Jersey_Monmouth	сС	8942	9745	0.00	36	116	86	8754	6806	2.1	23.9	BL
Cases US_New_York_Monroe	сС	3498	3796	0.54	25	119	126	4329	6254	23.8	78.8	BL
Cases US_New_York_Orange	сС	10648	10741	0.84	69	83	88	9244	10859	13.2	2.0	PD
Cases US_Delaware_New_Castle	сC	4647	4771	7.21	31	121	129	4206	8788	9.5	89.1	BL
Cases US_Illinois_DuPage	сС	8682	9085	7.35	16	135	121	8666	15061	0.2	73.5	BL
Cases US_New_Jersey_Union	сC	16322	16635	0.26	64	88	90	15980	18370	2.1	12.5	BL
Cases US_New_York_Dutchess Cases US_New_York_Erie	cC cC	4138 7004	4204 8111	0.00 2.09	52 31	100 121	87 115	3439 7633	3147 8722	16.9 9.0	23.9 24.5	BL BL
Cases US_Pennsylvania_Philadelphia	сC	24841	26366	0.34	47	105	105	21402	32502	13.8	30.8	BL
Cases US_Virginia_Fairfax	сC	13419	19779	8.83	43	109	131	18095	25864	34.8	92.7	BL
Cases US_Connecticut_Hartford	сC	11405	12329	1.31	51	91	106	13229	8807	16.0	22.8	BL
Cases US_Illinois_Lake	сС	9326	9907	8.68	21	127	119	11542	13876	23.8	48.8	BL
Cases US_Indiana_Marion	сС	10945	11883	4.21	35	117	115	9906	16540	9.5	51.1	BL
Cases US_Massachusetts_Essex	сС	15829	16460	3.10	54	97	105	14073	19356	11.1	22.3	BL
Cases US_New_Jersey_Mercer	сC	7541	7883	1.27	54	80	111	8178	10786	8.4	43.0	BL
Cases US_New_Jersey_Morris	сC	6699	6803	0.39	75 50	74	86	6806	5912	1.6	11.7	BL
Cases US_New_Jersey_Passaic Cases US_New_Jersey_Somerset	cC cC	16769 4813	16995 4889	0.46	58 68	94 83	98 92	15178 5328	25589 3917	9.5 10.7	52.6 18.6	BL BL
Cases US_Pennsylvania_Delaware	сC	7038	7371	0.86	51	87	102	6110	4634	13.2	34.2	BL
Cases US_Connecticut_New_Haven	сC	12185	12571	1.77	60	87	99	12656	11180	3.9	8.2	BL
Cases US Massachusetts Worcester	сC	12130	12332	0.17	38	102	111	10979	14591	9.5	20.3	BL
Cases US_Michigan_Macomb	сС	7152	7266	0.00	58	94	85	6209	5887	13.2	17.7	BL
Cases US_New_Jersey_Burlington	сС	5023	5214	1.74	53	99	106	4361	6515	13.2	29.7	BL
Cases US_New_Jersey_Camden	сC	7135	7626	1.69	49	103	113	6458	10318	9.5	44.6	BL
Cases US_New_Jersey_Ocean	сС	9425	10118	1.56	46	104	90	8182	6398	13.2	32.1	BL
Cases US_Pennsylvania_Bucks	сC	5547	5823	3.67	58	94	106	5020	6333	9.5	14.2	BL
Cases US_Colorado_Adams Cases US_Kentucky_Jefferson	cC cC	3909 3582	4733 3561	2.10 5.13	32 18	120 130	120 118	3826 3109	4841 7317	2.1 13.2	23.8 104.3	BL BL
Cases US_Maryland_Baltimore_City	сC	7053	7863	0.22	28	121	133	6384	12786	9.5	81.3	BL
Cases US_Massachusetts_Plymouth	сC	8583	8731	0.25	54	96	103	7768	11308	9.5	31.7	BL
Cases US_Michigan_Kent	сС	4590	5000	0.40	36	116	114	4154	4044	9.5	11.9	BL
Cases US_Missouri_StLouis_St_Louis	сС	5850	6505	3.68	32	120	98	5727	3098	2.1	47.0	BL
Cases US_Illinois_Will	сС	6367	6845	1.37	37	115	117	5763	8538	9.5	34.1	BL
Cases US_Louisiana_East_Baton_Rouge	сC	4374	5080	8.13	17	135	82	5575	2209	27.5	49.5	BL
Cases US_Massachusetts_Bristol	сС	8035	8731	8.56	32	120	110	8505	8372	5.8	4.2	PD
Cases US_Pennsylvania_Lehigh	сC	4085	4134	3.26	44 45	108	83	3395	2778 1886	16.9	32.0	BL Bl
Cases US_Pennsylvania_Northampton Cases US_Delaware_Sussex	cC cC	3309 4495	3415 4554	1.99 0.65	45 42	107 107	92 106	2750 5064	1886 4433	16.9 12.7	43.0 1.4	BL PD
Cases US_Illinois_Kane	сC	7399	7503	3.96	23	129	121	7790	10481	5.3	41.7	BL
Cases US_Massachusetts_Hampden	сC	6598	6703	0.00	45	107	107	5728	8260	13.2	25.2	BL
Cases US_Pennsylvania_Berks	сC	4407	4615	0.48	43	109	96	3988	3653	9.5	17.1	BL
Cases US_lowa_Polk	сС	5498	6384	2.84	27	124	121	5245	4349	4.6	20.9	BL
Cases US_Indiana_Lake	сС	4400	5283	0.00	35	117	119	4307	4824	2.1	9.6	BL
Cases US_South_Dakota_Minnehaha	сC	3523	3579	0.00	44	108	99	3709	2712	5.3	23.0	BL
Deaths China	dD	4639	4713	0.00		22	30	5398	6121	16.4	31.9	BL
Deaths China non Huboi	dD dD	4512 127	4565 128	0.63 4.44	53	21	30 27	4417 133	5942 163	2.1 4.7	31.7 28.3	BL
Deaths China_non_Hubei	นป	12/	120	4.44	122	28	27	100	103	4./	20.3	BL

 $\textbf{Table 3:} \ \ \text{Forecasts of Plateau} \ N \ \ \text{Ordered by Size and Certainty (green shading}$

more certain but may involves small increases to plateau so less important).

more certain but may involves small increases to plateau so less important).											
Cases or Deaths	Location	Total Number Now	Predicted Plateau N Now	%SD of Plateau	Difference Now to to Plateau	%Difference	Number Days at Plateau	Slope of Plateau with Day			
Cases		257,447	478,018	1.3	220,571	85.7	22	19			
Deaths	Belarus	51,271	97,987	3.6	46,716	91.1 40.0	16 22	42			
	Indonesia	59,023 46,845	82,618 68,939	5.7 5.0	23,595 22,094	47.2	8	158 395			
	Afghanistan	29,157	45,900	7.4	16,743	57.4	10	215			
	United_Arab_Emirates	45,303	57,910	6.8	12,607	27.8	31	25			
	Philippines	30,682	41,752	2.6	11,070	36.1	12	259			
	Kuwait	40,291	46,889	3.4	6,598	16.4	31	233			
Deaths	Peru	8,223	14,544	8.8	6,321	76.9	24	144			
	US_Tennessee_Davidson	7,716	13,730	5.3	6,014	77.9	8	423			
	Cameroon	12,041	17,830	9.6	5,789	48.1	14	480			
	Russia El Salvador	8,196	13,573	6.6	5,377	65.6	20	151			
	El_Salvador Dominican_Republic	4,808 27,370	9,177 31,447	9.2 6.0	4,369 4,077	90.9 14.9	8 14	492 637			
	US_Washington_Yakima	6,326	10,266	3.4	3,940	62.3	6	167			
Cases		8,698	12,425	2.8	3,727	42.8	20	174			
	Bangladesh	1,502	4,870	8.8	3,368	224.2	7	212			
	Moldova	14,363	17,669	8.5	3,306	23.0	10	508			
Cases	US_Texas_EI_Paso	4,553	7,645	7.6	3,092	67.9	12	285			
Cases	US_Maryland_Baltimore	7,585	10,177	8.9	2,592	34.2	20	0			
	US_Maryland_Anne_Arundel	4,916	7,175	0.1	2,259	46.0	6	1			
	US_Nebraska_Douglas	6,386	8,611	0.0	2,225	34.8	13	0			
	US_Ohio_Franklin	7,915	9,941	3.3	2,026	25.6	18	97			
	US_California_Orange Ukraine	10,595	12,609	9.8	2,014	19.0	16 19	301 754			
Cases		38,056 5,211	39,656 6,480	9.6 3.2	1,600 1,269	4.2 24.4	8	38			
	Indonesia	2,500	3,449	7.1	949	38.0	9	16			
	US_Georgia_Gwinnett	6,407	7,219	8.9	812	12.7	16	169			
	US_California_San_Diego	11,096	11,875	7.4	779	7.0	23	131			
	US_Ohio_Cuyahoga	5,734	6,450	7.6	716	12.5	8	184			
Deaths	Argentina	1,043	1,581	9.7	538	51.6	9	59			
	US_Georgia_Cobb	3,969	4,488	6.2	519	13.1	28	0			
	Ukraine	1,022	1,539	4.3	517	50.6	9	31			
	US_Puerto_Rico	6,564	7,056	7.2	492	7.5 13.2	12 34	152			
	US_Pennsylvania_Chester US_California_Los_Angeles	3,513 3,137	3,975 3,506	10.0 2.7	462 369	11.8	31	19 25			
	US_Minnesota_Ramsey	4,352	4,675	7.2	323	7.4	23	34			
	Nigeria Nigeria	525	840	6.2	315	60.0	7	29			
	US_Wisconsin_Milwaukee	10,355	10,668	5.5	313	3.0	26	89			
Deaths	Armenia	360	666	6.7	306	85.0	9	19			
Deaths	US_Florida_Palm_Beach	468	747	7.0	279	59.6	10	14			
	US_Arizona_Maricopa	634	776	8.4	142	22.4	29	9			
	US_Texas_Dallas	317	434	3.0	117	36.9	32	0			
	US_Massachusetts_Bristol US Ohio Cuyahoga	546	663	1.4	117	21.4	26	0			
	US Maryland Baltimore	339 455	456 543	3.3 1.4	117 88	34.5 19.3	14 34	1 1			
Deaths	_ , _	533	615	7.3	82	15.4	10	8			
	US California Riverside	424	498	1.4	74	17.5	34	0			
	US_Texas_EI_Paso	120	190	7.2	70	58.3	6	5			
Deaths	US_Illinois_Kane	252	319	8.1	67	26.6	21	0			
	US_Texas_Tarrant	208	274	2.0	66	31.7	18	0			
	Kuwait	330	396	3.2	66	20.0	18	1			
	US_California_San_Diego	338	397	5.9	59	17.5	36	0			
	Bulgaria	207	265	9.8	58	28.0	16	0			
	US_Ohio_Franklin US Georgia DeKalb	358	408	2.8	50 40	14.0	17	3			
	US Utah Salt Lake	165 102	205 140	8.5 4.0	40 38	24.2 37.3	32 10	1 2			
	US Colorado Adams	153	186	4.0	33	21.6	25	0			
	US Illinois Lake	401	433	6.5	32	8.0	24	0			
	US_New_Jersey_Mercer	524	556	8.3	32	6.1	46	0			
	US_California_Kern	60	84	1.5	24	40.0	22	0			
	US_Nevada_Clark	400	419	6.2	19	4.8	39	0			
	US_Maryland_Anne_Arundel	200	217	1.9	17	8.5	41	0			
	US_Virginia_Loudoun	84	100	3.0	16	19.0	6	1			
	US_Nebraska_Douglas	80	94	6.0	14	17.5	6	1			
	US_Florida_Hillsborough Panama	115 521	128 529	9.8 9.7	13 g	11.3	15 17	3 10			
	US Puerto Rico	521 149	529 156	9.7 0.4	8 7	1.5 4.7	17 44	10 0			
	US Ohio Hamilton	187	192	9.6	5	2.7	26	3			
	US_South_Dakota_Minnehaha	54	55	2.1	1	1.9	29	0			

Deaths	Diamond_Princess	13	12	0.0	-1	-7.7	22	0
Cases	US_Texas_Harris	23,047	21,967	9.8	-1,080	-4.7	12	727
Deaths	India	14,011	32,783	4.4	18,772	134.0	8	842
	Azerbaijan	13,207	30,088	8.4	16,881	127.8	6	1324
	Panama	26,752	38,757	8.5	12,005	44.9	7	1553
	US_California_Los_Angeles	86,017	97,102	8.8	11,085	12.9	21	1629
	Russia	591,465	703,979	7.9	112,514	19.0	36	2025
	WholeWorld	635,463	701,602	1.7	66,139	10.4	39	3482
Cases	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	56,809	171,053	5.9	114,244	201.1	9	4947
	Saudi_Arabia Mexico	161,005 185,122	337,073	5.7 2.6	176,068	109.4 307.7	6 14	5268 5941
	Bangladesh	115,786	754,786 267,358	5.8	569,664 151,572	130.9	8	9044
	Pakistan	185,034	470,553	6.5	285,519	154.3	7	17969
Cases		2,312,302	2,089,628	9.8	-222,674	-9.6	35	21481
Cases		440,215	1,363,036	9.8	922,821	209.6	13	35566
	WholeWorld		15,823,018	2.7	4,016,549	34.0	11	244799
Cases		32,676	1	0.0	-32,675	-100.0	-	-
Cases	•	31,076	1	0.0	-31,075	-100.0	-	-
Cases	Brazil	1,106,470	1	0.0	-1,106,469	-100.0	-	-
Cases	Argentina	44,931	1	0.0	-44,930	-100.0	-	-
Cases	Poland	32,227	1	0.0	-32,226	-100.0	-	-
Cases	Qatar	88,403	1	0.0	-88,402	-100.0	-	-
Cases		246,963	1	0.0	-246,962	-100.0	-	-
Cases	South_Africa	101,590	1	0.0	-101,589	-100.0	-	-
	Bulgaria	3,984	1	0.0	-3,983	-100.0	-	-
	Colombia	71,367	1	0.0	-71,366	-100.0	-	-
	North_Macedonia	5,196	1	0.0	-5,195	-100.0	-	-
	US_Florida_Broward	11,327	1	0.0	-11,326	-100.0	-	-
	US_Nevada_Clark	10,774	1	0.0	-10,773	-100.0	-	-
	Armenia	20,588	1	0.0	-20,587	-100.0	-	-
	US_California_Alameda	5,007	1	0.0	-5,006 12,700	-100.0	-	-
	US_California_Riverside Senegal	13,800 5,970	1	0.0	-13,799 -5,969	-100.0 -100.0	-	-
	US Texas Dallas	17,299	1	0.0	-17,298	-100.0		-
	Bolivia	25,493	1	0.0	-25,492	-100.0		_
	Kazakhstan	18,231	1	0.0	-18,230	-100.0	_	-
	US_Florida_Palm_Beach	10,943	1	0.0	-10,942	-100.0	_	_
	US_Georgia_DeKalb	4,791	1	0.0	-4,790	-100.0	_	_
	US_North_Carolina_Mecklenburg	8,956	1	0.0	-8,955	-100.0	_	_
	US_Arizona_Maricopa	31,650	1	0.0	-31,649	-100.0	-	-
	US_Florida_Hillsborough	5,973	1	0.0	-5,972	-100.0	-	-
	US_Texas_Bexar	6,882	1	0.0	-6,881	-100.0	-	-
	US_Texas_Travis	6,210	1	0.0	-6,209	-100.0	-	-
Cases	Congo_Kinshasa	5,924	1	0.0	-5,923	-100.0	-	-
Cases	Honduras	13,356	1	0.0	-13,355	-100.0	-	-
Cases	US_Texas_Tarrant	8,955	1	0.0	-8,954	-100.0	-	-
Cases	Guatemala	13,769	1	0.0	-13,768	-100.0	-	-
	Nigeria	20,919	1	0.0	-20,918	-100.0	-	-
	US_Arizona_Pima	5,587	1	0.0	-5,586	-100.0	-	-
	US_Tennessee_Shelby	8,064	1	0.0	-8,063	-100.0	-	-
Cases		4,797	1	0.0	-4,796	-100.0	-	-
	US_California_San_Bernardino	9,361	1	0.0	-9,360	-100.0	-	-
	US_Ohio_Hamilton	4,020	1	0.0	-4,019	-100.0	-	-
	US_California_Kern US Pennsylvania Lancaster	3,965	1	0.0	-3,964 -4,028	-100.0	-	-
Deaths		4,029	1	0.0	-4,026	-100.0 -99.9	-	-
Deaths		1,167 2,278	1	0.0	-2,277	-100.0		-
	Pakistan	3,695	1	0.0	-3,694	-100.0	_	_
	Mexico	22,584	1	0.0	-22,583	-100.0	_	_
	US Georgia Fulton	304	1	0.0	-303	-99.7	_	-
	Colombia	2,426	1	0.0	-2,425	-100.0	-	_
Deaths		4,502	1	0.0	-4,501	-100.0	-	_
Deaths	North_Macedonia	247	1	0.0	-246	-99.6	-	-
Deaths	Saudi_Arabia	1,307	1	0.0	-1,306	-99.9	-	-
Deaths	Honduras	395	1	0.0	-394	-99.7	-	-
Deaths	US_California_Orange	269	1	0.0	-268	-99.6	-	-
Deaths	South_Africa	1,991	1	0.0	-1,990	-99.9	-	-
	Afghanistan	598	1	0.0	-597	-99.8	-	-
	Belarus	351	1	0.0	-350	-99.7	-	-
	Bolivia	820	1	0.0	-819	-99.9	-	-
	US_Washington_Yakima	138	1	0.0	-137	-99.3	-	-
	Azerbaijan	161	1	0.0	-160	-99.4	-	-
	Kazakhstan	127	1	0.0	-126	-99.2	-	-
	US_Minnesota_Ramsey	211	1	0.0	-210	-99.5	-	-
	Guatemala	547	1	0.0	-546	-99.8	-	-
Deaths Deaths		137 99	1	0.0	-136 -98	-99.3 -99.0	-	-
Deaths		99 88	1	0.0	-98 -87	-99.0 -98.9		-
	Senegal	86	1	0.0	-85	-96.9 -98.8		
204113		- 00		3.0		30.0		